

CLAIMS

1. An optical disc reproducing apparatus for reading out data optically recorded on an optical disc via an objective
5 lens provided with a ring-shaped lens protecting part arranged opposite said optical disc and protruding toward said optical disc, characterized in that:

at least one concave or concaves for establishing communication between the inside and the outside of said ring
10 is or are formed in said lens protecting part.
2. The optical disc reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that said concave or concaves of said lens protecting part is or are disposed in a direction tangential
15 to said optical disc and orthogonal to the tracking direction so as to bisect the face of said lens protecting part opposite said optical disc.
3. An objective lens for reading out data optically recorded
20 on an optical disc, the objective lens being provided with a lens protecting part arranged opposite said optical disc, characterized in that said lens protecting part is formed in a ring-shape protruding toward said optical disc and at least one concave or concaves for establishing communication between
25 the inside and the outside of said ring is or are formed therein.
4. The objective lens according to claim 3, characterized

in that said concave or concaves of said lens protecting part is or are disposed in a direction tangential to said optical disc and orthogonal to the tracking direction so as to bisect the face of said lens protecting part opposite said optical disc.

5. A lens protecting part disposed on a face of an objective lens, for optically reading out data recorded on an optical disc, opposite said optical disc, formed in a ring shape protruding toward said optical disc, and characterized in that at least one concave or concaves for establishing communication between the inside and the outside of said ring is or are formed therein.

6. The lens protecting part according to claim 5, characterized in that said concave or concaves is or are disposed in a direction parallel to a tangent to said optical disc and orthogonal to the tracking direction so as to bisect the face of said lens protecting part opposite said optical disc.

7. An optical disc reproducing method for reading out data optically recorded on an optical disc via an objective lens provided with a ring-shaped lens protecting part opposite said optical disc and protruding toward said optical disc, characterized in that:

at least one concave or concaves for establishing communication between the inside and the outside of said ring

is or are formed in said lens protecting part, and the pressures inside and outside the ring are equalized to prevent the optical disc and said objective lens from coming into contact with each other.

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